Integrity Management Rule Fact Sheet

Objective: Improve pipeline safety through:
- new requirements for periodic testing,
- integrated evaluation of risk information,
- improved Federal/State oversight of operator integrity management programs and plans, and
- enhanced communication to communities.

Applicability: Initial rule applies to operators who own or operate 500 or more miles of hazardous liquid pipelines jurisdictional to 49 CFR Part 195. A similar rule for operators of smaller, jurisdictional liquid pipeline systems will follow shortly. OPS also intends to issue an integrity management rule for natural gas transmission operators, and requirements to improve community awareness and address "public right to know" concerns in 2001.

Goals:
- accelerating the integrity assessment of pipelines in High Consequence Areas,
- improving integrity management systems within companies,
- improving the government's role in reviewing the adequacy of integrity programs and plans,
- providing increased public assurance in pipeline safety.

Key Features:

- Provides enhanced protection for defined High Consequence Areas (HCAs) which will be mapped by OPS and made available to industry through the Internet. HCAs include:
  - unusually sensitive environmental areas (defined in 195.6),
  - urbanized areas and other populated places (delineated by the Census Bureau), and
  - commercially-navigable waterways.

- Hazardous liquid pipeline operators must develop a written Integrity Management Program that includes:
  - Identification of all pipeline segments that could affect an HCA
  - A Baseline Assessment Plan to assure integrity of these segments,
  - A Framework that identifies how each element of the Integrity Management Program will be implemented.

  The identification of segments must be completed within 9 months, and the Baseline Assessment Plan and Framework must be completed within one year after the Rule goes into effect.

- The *Baseline Assessment Plan* must:
  - identify all pipeline segments that could affect HCAs,
  - specify the integrity assessment method or methods for each segment that could affect an HCA (acceptable methods include, internal inspection, pressure testing, or other technology that the operator demonstrates can provide an equivalent understanding of pipe condition),
  - provide a schedule for assessment of each segment, and
  - explain the technical basis for integrity assessment method(s) selection and risk factors used in scheduling the assessments.

- All baseline integrity assessments must be completed within seven years of the effective date of the rule. At least 50% of the line pipe affecting HCAs must be assessed within 3 ½ years, beginning with the highest risk segments. An operator may use assessments completed within five years prior to the rule's effective date to satisfy the baseline assessment requirement.

- HCA boundaries will change over time (e.g., population expands, additional environmental data is obtained, etc.). Any new HCAs must be incorporated into the Baseline Assessment Plan within one year of the identification of the new area. Integrity assessments for segments that could affect these new HCAs must be completed within five years.

- An operator's *Integrity Management Program* must include the following elements:
  - a process for determining which pipeline segments could affect an HCA,
  - a Baseline Assessment Plan,
  - a process *for continual integrity assessment and evaluation*,
  - an analytical process that *integrates all available information* about pipeline integrity and the consequences of a failure,
  - repair criteria to address issues identified by the integrity assessment method and data analysis (the rule provides minimum repair criteria for certain, higher risk, features identified through internal inspection, as well as time frames in which certain features must be repaired),
  - a process to *identify and evaluate preventive and mitigative measures* to protect HCAs,
  - methods to measure the integrity management program's effectiveness, and
  - a process for review of integrity assessment results and data analysis by a qualified individual.

  Each of these areas must be addressed in the Framework

- An operator must perform periodic integrity assessments (i.e., *continual integrity evaluation and assessment*) on line segments that could affect HCAs at intervals not to exceed 5 years.
  - The risk represented by the segment should be used to establish the appropriate assessment interval within the 5 year period.
  - Operators may extend the intervals to more than 5 years if a reliable engineering evaluation and other external monitoring activities show the pipe to be in good condition, or if a new integrity assessment technology the operator plans to use is not readily available.

- In evaluating the integrity of the line, the operator must *integrate all available information*, including at a minimum:
  - the potential for excavation or outside force damage, considering potential new development along the line,
  - information about the potential impacts of a release on the HCA (e.g., drinking water intake),
  - data gathered from the integrity assessments required by this rule, and
  - cathodic protection surveys, patrolling, and other maintenance and surveillance activities.

- Operators must conduct risk analyses for the line segments that could affect a HCAs. These analyses should identify and evaluate the need for additional preventive and mitigative actions to protect HCAs. Such measures might include:
  - damage prevention best practices,
  - enhanced cathodic protection monitoring,
  - reduced inspection intervals,
  - enhanced training,
  - conducting drills with local emergency responders, and
  - other management controls

  Operators must explicitly evaluate the need for Emergency Flow Restricting Devices and enhancements to Leak Detection Systems to protect HCAs.

- An operator's integrity management program must include methods to measure the program's effectiveness in assessing and evaluating integrity, and in protecting high consequence areas.

- A written integrity management program and records to support the analyses and decisions made for each of the program elements must be retained by the operator and will be reviewed by OPS during inspections.